Syllabus for Arts 325 – Life Drawing
Tuesday and Thursday, 1-4pm in Sewall Hall 415
Instructor: Anna Elise Johnson
annaelisejohnson@gmail.com
Office Hours by appointment

Course Description and Objectives:

Life Drawing focuses on the fundamental concepts, materials, and processes of human figure drawing. Though the practice of observational drawing from a model, students will further develop visual perception skills and understanding of pictorial space. Students will advance the foundational elements of drawing such as line, tone, and mark, as well as elements of design – composition and spatial relationships – and expression. Students will use a variety media to investigate the traditions and possibilities of human figure drawing. In addition to in-class drawing sessions and out-of-class assignments, group critiques, individual conversation with the instructor, and discussions with fellow students will address the issues surrounding representation and perception to technically and conceptually experiment with drawing as a creative and critical tool.

There will be supplemental study material from the "Atlas of Human Anatomy for the Artist" by Stephen Rogers Peck as well as close study of drawings by historical and contemporary artists. The class will also include visits to local museums.

Evaluation: Everyone in this class will start from a different skill level, so grades will be determined by the student's level of effort and improvement in and out of class.

60% – In class participation. This portion of your grade will be based on attendance, punctuality, effort, cooperation and completion of all projects on deadline. Please show up to each class on time, with your materials, and prepared to work. Unexcused absences will effect your grade. Three unexcused absences will result in a failing grade. In your projects show attention to craftsmanship, a commitment to problem solving, and a willingness to learn, take risks, experiment and challenge yourself.

20% – Homework. Students are expected to spend three hours per week (minimum) working outside of class.

10% – Thoughtful participation in class discussions and in dialogue with your fellow students.

10% – Final Project.

Disability Disclaimer: If you have a documented disability that will impact your work in this class, please contact me to discuss your needs. Additionally, you will need to register with the Disability Support Services Office in the Allen Center.

Materials: A $15 lab fee is required from each student. Please make your check out to "Rice University" and deliver it to me on the second day of class. This fee will cover the cost of paper. Students are responsible for purchasing all other supplies.

Here is a list of required materials. Please purchase them by next Tuesday, January 21st.

- portable supply container of some sort (ex: tackle box or art box)
- sketch book
- graphite drawing pencils: at least 4B, 2B, HB, 2H
- graphite stick
- white conté crayon or white and black colored pencil (brown optional)
- some sort of color drawing media (color pencil, pastel, chalk)
- 1 box vine charcoal (extra soft)
- 1 white rubber eraser
- 1 kneaded eraser
- spray fixative (optional)
- hand pencil sharpener
- several sheets of quality paper (TBA)
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Art Supply Stores:

Texas Art Supply:
2001 Montrose Blvd., Houston, TX 77006, (713) 526-5221
2237 South Voss, Houston, TX 77057, (713) 780-0440

Art Supply:
2711 Main Street #100 Houston, TX 77002, (713) 652-4984

Schedule:
August:
1/14 – Course Introduction
1/16 – Gesture Drawing and Contour Drawing - eye/ hand synchronicity

January
1/21 – Measuring and Proportion
1/23 – Measuring, Proportion, and Gesture

1/28 – Negative Space
1/30 – Depth with Parallel Lines

February
2/4 – Transparent Drawing/ Skeleton
2/6 – Transparent Drawing/ Skeleton

2/11– Tone
2/13 – Tone – Footprints in the snow

2/18 – Tone - Erasure Drawings
2/20 – Tone – with gray or black paper

2/25– Mark – multiple lines/ marks. Searching for form
2/27– Mark – multiple lines/ marks. Searching for form

March
3/4 – Spring Break(NO SCHEDULED CLASSES)
3/6 – Spring Break(NO SCHEDULED CLASSES)

3/11 – Mark –Hatching/ Selective Tone
3/13 – Mark – no contour – manic marks

3/18 – Mark – Beautiful Scribble
3/20 – Mark – Shorthand Tone

3/18 – Material – Combination
3/20 – Material – Combination

3/25 – Material – Combination
3/27 – Material – Combination

April
4/1 – Open Material
4/3 – Open Material

4/8 – Open Material
4/10 – Open Material

4/15 – Final Project
4/17 – Final Project

4/22 – Final Project
4/24 Last Class Meeting and Final Critique